

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Starting on page 4



SURVEY:
FAVORITE STONE TO
WORK WITH?

MASSCONLINE.COM



New to the Members Only Video Library:

The Virtual Vendor Tour!

Covid proved to be a challenge to our event schedule once again this year, but we decided that nothing was going to stop us from bringing our members one of our most unique annual events. We had to get a little creative, but with a lot of leg work, phone calls and video editing we were so pleased to be able to bring the Downtown Jewelry District Tour to members safely from the comfort of home as we embarked on our first ever Virtual Tour via Zoom, allowing us to visit vendors from all across the United States! For members who could not join us live, we have the recording freshly posted on our Vimeo channel ready for you to enjoy! This is a password protected video section, exclusively for current members only.

See page 11 to check membership status, get the password, and enjoy the show!

Monthly Makers Challenge

Thanks to everyone who participated in the **May/June Animal Challenge!**

July's challenge is jewelry for a sock puppet, showing your puppets' personality—the Zoom for this challenge is on Sunday, July 25, at 10 am. Even if you don't make anything, you'll want to join us just to watch!

August's Monthly Makers Challenge will be a project using your scrap metal

- It can be used in any manner, from anything you have cast aside, parts of a piece that did not work, a technique that did not quite work, a rock/stone that didn't fit, stamped or etched pieces.
- You are free to create anything from the scrap pile.
- For the follow-up newsletter post, we would like you to mention what you used, why it was scrap, how you repurposed it, what techniques you used and describe your inspiration for the piece. Fuse the metal, cut away unwanted parts, use reticulation, enameling or add texture.
- We encourage you to participate even if you have not finished your piece, show us it anyway and talk it through.
- There is always something to learn from our members/co-jewelers, sharing tricks of the trade and tools we might not know about.

Upcoming Monthly Makers Challenges

August **Scrap**

September **Inlay**

October **Box**

November **Ripple**

December **Ornament**

Makers Challenge – Animals



Bill's photo of his inspiration



Virginia's photo of her creative process

Virginia and Bill detailed their process from sketch to final piece. Head to Page 8 for more on the Animal Challenge!

ASK BETSY!

by Betsy Manheimer

Q: Now that studios are opening up again to some extent, I am noticing that a number of workshops that are being offered are 3 to 5 days. I work and I can't do weekday classes, so what can I do to keep learning new techniques and taking classes?

A: Well, Dorothy, we're not in 2019 anymore. Just as we had to adjust to lockdowns and closures, we now have to adjust to changes that have come about over the last 15 or so months. Many teachers have changed the way they offer workshops, and many students have changed the way they learn. We're still in a period of flux on how this will all end up as a "new normal," but many schools and facilities have decided to continue their Zoom or Facebook Live (and/or hybrid) classes, and many teachers offer video workshops from their websites. YouTube has a number of good tutorials and teachers, and Facebook has a lot of communities that are dedicated to jewelry making and specific techniques.

While I could probably write a very long column on these alone, I want to offer another possibility...use your MASSC membership to its best advantage!

There are a number of offerings that can put or keep you in touch with like-minded folk, many of whom are also local. You can see what others are doing in the Monthly Makers Challenge. You can learn from panels and demo days. You can augment your tool stash or free up some studio space with the Swap & Shop. And even if you don't feel like you can or want to spotlight your own work, you can see what others are doing and learn from their presentations just by joining in as a spectator. It may just give you that push you need to share what you do. You never know what tips, tricks and ideas you can get out of these offerings unless you participate in some way.

If you are a member, fill out your profile on the website! Make sure you include current contact information. Don't be afraid of contacting other members who you might want to be in touch with. I know some people are hesitant to contact "strangers," but we're not strangers...we're connected by a common interest and, while some might not respond, you'll find others who are happy that you made the contact.

If you're not a member, there are events that are open to non-members. Take advantage of these and you might realize that the access to people and events that membership provides is really beneficial.

So there are ways to continue your progress as a maker even with the many changes that have transpired and will continue to do so. You just have to be creative in your own approach to your education and, while some things may have become more difficult, there are also new opportunities that have arisen from this weirdness we have all been living through.

Stay well, keep making stuff, and send your questions to askmassc@gmail.com

TECHNIQUES & Tidbits

Soldering Shot

We all know how hard it is to solder small things to larger things, especially things that are round like small shot. It is best to **sweat solder** items first (applying flux and solder to flow on the larger item, then reflux and place the two pieces together until the solder flows). With shot, a more convenient way is to flux and melt solder on a piece scrap metal, reflux, place shot on metal, reheat until solder adheres to bottom of shot and remove shot quickly with tweezers while solder is still melted. *Jewelry Making for Schools, Tradesmen, Craftsmen* by Murray Bovin, 1967

Did you know that goldsmiths use **gold solders** 2-4 karats lower than the karat gold being used as it is cheaper? The karat of the solder does not indicate its flow point. Gold solders can be purchased with 2 or more melting points of the same karat.

Flux adheres better to warm metal than cold, so heat slightly before applying flux.

A **borax and water flux mix** is preferred for soldering copper and palladium, 75% borax and 25% boric acid works best for medium and high melting solders. Commercially made products contain less water and will bubble less. Pure borax is used for whitening laundry and boric acid is sold as a roach killer in hardware stores.



Tools

Tools that make me ask myself, "What took me so long to get this??" : **GRS BenchMate** tools. These tools deliver the widest range of motion available from any hands-free work holding tools.



Top: Steel bench pin.
Above: Slide and lock; these are just a few of the tools that work together
[Available at RioGrande.com](http://AvailableatRioGrande.com)

JULY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 SUMMER SWAP & SHOP 10 AM	12	13 Little Metal Foxes Boxes Tu/Th for 2 weeks Week 1 13 & 15 Week 2 20 & 22 2-4:30 pm PDT	14	15 Nohline L'Ecuyer The Loft Jewelry Studio Enamel with Linda Darty 15-19	16	17 NEWSLETTER WORKING MEETING 10 AM Little Metal Foxes Hollow Box Rings 2-5:00 pm PDT
18 Little Metal Foxes Hollow Box Rings 2-5:00 pm PDT	19	20	21	22	23 Diane Weimer Discover Argentium with Ronda Coryell 23-26	24
25 MONTHLY MAKERS CHALLENGE 10 AM	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST 2021

Black/Bold = MASSC Sponsored Event

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Bowers Museum Gemstone Carvings Ongoing	2	3	4	5	6	7 BOARD MEETING 10 AM Little Metal Foxes Intro Enamel-Images through Stencil & Mark Making with Jan Smith 7-8 10 am-1:00 pm PDT
8 Little Metal Foxes Intro Enamel-Images through Stencil & Mark Making with Jan Smith 7-8 10 am -1:00 pm PDT	9	10	11 Silvera Jewelry School Free Jewelry Talk: Pivoting during the Pandemic with Alison Antelman 2-3:30 pm PDT	12	13	14 Little Metal Foxes Intro Enamel-Images through Stencil & Mark Making with Jan Smith 14-15 10 am-1:00 pm PDT
15 MASSC MEMBER SCRAP FORUM 10 AM - 12 PM Little Metal Foxes Intro Enamel-Images 10 am-1:00 pm PDT	16	17	18	19	20	21 METALS CHALLENGE ZOOM 12 PM
22	23 Diane Weimer Discovering the Magic of Argentium with Ronda Coryell 23-26 4 days	24	25	26	27	28
29 MONTHLY MAKERS CHALLENGE 10 AM	30	31				

SEPTEMBER 2021

Black/Bold = MASSC Sponsored Event

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 DEMO DAY INTRO 9:30 EVENT 10 am-3 PM	13 Bowers Museum Miao: Masters of Silver	14 Anneville Studio Twisting Mokume 14-15 both days	15 Silvera Jewelry School Free Jewelry Talk: A Spoonful of Curiosity with Gabriel Mo 2-3:30 pm PDT	16	17 Diane Weimer Imagery on Die Formed Silver Class with Jayne Redman & Elizabeth Lyne 17-21 5 days	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 BOX WORKSHOP 10 AM
26 MONTHLY MAKERS CHALLENGE 10 AM	27	28	29	30		

Trudy Adler's collection of hand formed heavy wired copper cuffs. For more info: trudyadler@earthlink.net



Copper patinated wire cuff



Hammered texture copper wire cuff



High shine twisted wire cuff

Margot Michon's collection of scrap metal pieces, a wide variety in both silver and gold
<https://www.margotmichon.com>



Turquoise ring with decorated band



Sterling silver scrap decorated bracelet



Belt buckle in sterling silver

Cats and dogs. Owls and lions Oh MY! We had quite a menagerie of animals last month that were presented at the metals challenge. Everyone had a story to go with their animals which made for a lively event. Chloe lost her beloved cat, Peanut, and made a piece in memory of him, and expanded it into a product line; Bill had a dear friend who lost his motorcycle keychain when his car was totaled in an automobile accident, so he made him a new keychain featuring his beloved dogs; Virginia made an owl and shared pictures of actual owls as inspiration; Jean got her metal shears out and started a lion. We share the stories submitted by Chloe, Bill, and Virginia.

Chloe used mixed metals, etching and... “Three years ago, my senior baby Fozzy, aka Peanut, crossed the rainbow bridge. Since I am never gonna stop missing that little golden nugget, I've decided to turn my grief into warm fuzzy feelings. Project Laser Eyes is inspired by his round and soulful eyes that pierced directly into my heart like a sparkling beam of pure joy. 20% of the proceeds I make will be donated to The Paw Project, whose mission is to end the cruel and unnecessary practice of feline declawing.”



Bill Gallagher chose to use Photoshop to create darks and lights on his friend's photo for an overlay keyring in sterling silver, stamp in details and add contrast with Liver of Sulphur.

“I have a friend named Steve, an Army buddy whom I've known for 40+ years. In 1995, I made a silver replica of his motorcycle at the time to serve as a zipper pull for his riding jacket. He got rid of the motorcycle but kept the ornament on his keyring. Fast-forward 20 years and he rescued a badly neglected 1-year-old German Shepherd dog and nursed him back to health. Our joke is, “Who rescued whom?” as Steve has endured his own difficulties, and this dog became the center of his life. He later adopted another Shepherd dog, a puppy. So about 2 years ago, he was in a bad auto accident and his car was totaled. He walked away safely, but his keyring was hauled off to the junk heap, along with everything else. Since then, I had an idea tickling the back of my mind to make him a dog-oriented keyring, and when MASSC announced the animal theme of last month's challenge, it was the impetus I needed to finally make this thing. He had previously sent me a nice photo of the two dogs, which I cropped and manipulated in Photoshop to bring out the most basic elements to work with to try to make the image recognizable using only piercing and overlay as my jewelry techniques. I printed the image and glued it onto 20 gauge sheet, sawed out the outside shape, then pierced and cut out the inside shapes. Before removing the print, I used a line stamp to chisel in the major lines in the design. I then soldered the pierced sheet onto another 20 gauge sheet and cut off that outside edge. Using the line stamp, I refined and deepened the major lines and used a texture stamp to accentuate those lines. I resisted trying to add more details with the texture stamp and let the major graphic elements tell the story. I smoothed the edges and brushed the surface, then I oxidized the lines and recessed areas to finish.”



Chloe Kono



Bill Gallagher



Virginia Hyatt



Bill's creative process for his friend's keychain

Jean Vormelker had fun at the last minute with lions...she just drew her lion on 36 g copper sheet with a Sharpie, took the tin snips out, cut away, twisted with round nose pliers and ended up with an amazing mane. Don't we all wish we could draw so spontaneously and end up with such a creative direction? Now we challenge her to use this as inspiration for an enamel piece and share at the next Show and Tell.

Virginia (Ginny) Hyatt got her inspiration from real owls and shared an assortment of interesting owl photos. Her project was constructed with sterling, brass and copper metal, reused parts and pieces from her scrap box, stamping, oxidation and lapidary work. Her friend Julie Balonick saw the owl and, inspired by King Arthur and Legend of the Guardians, named him Percy O and wrote a fantasy story.

We all got inspired by the owls! Adeola Davies Aiyeloja shared her owl paintings and Erin Proctor shared a book she read not too long ago that tells the true story of a woman who adopted and raised an injured barn owl called *Wesley the Owl*, by Stacey O'Brien. Ginny then shared the story that her friend Julie wrote to accompany the piece she made:

"The spirits of Percival and Olivine were born of fire; created in a cauldron of the purest metals in the universe, which have existed throughout time.

They were separated by conflict and struggles but will always remain connected by the spirit of creation.

Percival, having finally been freed by the manifestation of hope and bravery, is now searching for his lost sister Olivine, who was captured by the giant scrap box trolls...They are hiding her soul in the box, but Olivine has a very strong spirit and is sending magical dream thoughts out to the keeper of the tools, the lovely fairy, Ginny...

Ginny doesn't know why, but she keeps having dreams and getting ideas about rescuing a sort of feathered creature from the scrap box trolls...as she hammers away, visions flitter through her head...her hand bravely reaches into the scrap box, careful not to wake the trolls, who sleep during the day, and scavenge the ground for dropped objects during the dark of night...Percy is calm...determined. He knows that Olivine's time of creation is near. He must stay diligent, on the shoulder of Ginny the good fairy, who holds the magical tools of creation!

-Brooch named and story developed by my friend and fellow jeweler, Julie Balonick. "

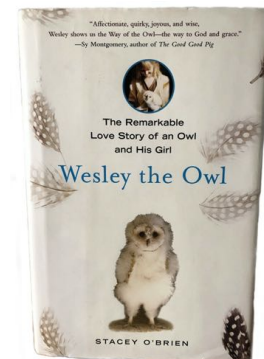
See the next page for photos of Virginia's creative process in the making Percy O.



Jean's copper cut into a Lion



Adeola's owl painting



Erin recommends this book (for animal lovers)

Monthly Makers Challenge



Virginia's creative process for how her owl came to life, Percy O

The current Monthly Makers Challenge is the **Sock Puppet Fashion Show!**

The Zoom for this event is **Sunday, July 25 at 10 am.**

Be prepared for some lively entertainment. Your jewelry should complement your sock puppet's personality. You might already have some pieces in mind, or you may be inspired to create a special wearable collection customized especially for your puppet! And don't be afraid to expand on the idea of "sock" puppet...it could be a glove, a shoe, a paper bag, a hammer with google eyes...get creative!

[For more info and to sign up, click here.](#)



Photo by [David Sykes](#)

For **August's Monthly Makers Challenge**, we want you to dive into your scrap box. Feel free to make anything you want, just please take a picture of the pieces you pull out before you start. Don't forget to take various photos throughout the process along with your finished piece. We want to showcase what you are creating in upcoming newsletters. Sign up sheet coming soon!



Ring made using scrap silver accents



Dig in to that scrap box!

Schools & Classes

Idyllwild Arts
Summer Adult Metals Week Program
Summer Native American Program
<https://idyllwildarts.org/adult-arts-center/>
951-359-2171
Idyllwild, CA

Little Metal Foxes

Extensive list of interactive online classes

<https://littlemetalfoxes.com>

Referral Program
Seattle, WA

Metalwerx

Classes both online and in-person

<https://www.metalwerx.com>

781-891-3854

Waltham, MA

Silvera Jewelry School

Free lectures monthly from well-known artists

Extensive Zoom and in-person classes

<https://www.silverajewelry.com>

510-868-4908

Berkeley, CA

Classes from our members

Nohline L'Ecuyer

The Loft Jewelry Studio

<https://www.theloftjewelrystudio.com>

Diane Weimer

Classes

<https://dianeweimer.com/workshops>

Erin Proctor

Private Classes & Consultations

<http://www.saturn5studio.com>

NEW in the Video Library:

JEWELRY DISTRICT TOUR

**Click here to check membership status and
get the video library password**

Contributors

Adeola Davies-Aiyeloja

Trudy Adler

Bill Gallagher

Virginia (Ginny) Hyatt

Ruth Kaplan

Chloe Kono

Betsy Manheimer

Margot Michon

Erin Proctor

Jean Vormelker

**Any member can contribute to this
newsletter:**

- Always looking for your tips and or techniques in any of your process to creating your pieces.
- Photos of your work can be featured in our MASSC Member Gallery. For that—looking for 3 to 4 photos of a collection that works together.
- If you have any questions, reach out and we can help you.

massc.editor@gmail.com

The BBC created a jewelry
competition show running on
HBO MAX *All That Glitters*



Six episodes. Two challenges per
episode: the Bestseller and the
Bespoke. They were given 3 to 5
hours to complete the challenge,
which is not a lot of time in our
world! Fun to watch and very
informative!

MASSC Board Members

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Vice President/Program Chair: Ketarah Shaffer
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South Hospitality Chair: Needed

Membership**Become a member**

If you're joining us for the first time, then hooray! We can't wait to share all of our exciting events with you this year!

Learn all about your member benefits and register here!

Membership is good from the date you register until December 31, 2021.

Here are some reasons to think about joining:

- If you bought a Metals Challenge Box you **MUST** be a current member to enter a piece into the competition!
- Receive Members Only access to Video Library!
- Special pricing on MASSC sponsored workshops & access to Members Only classes and events like the Jewelry District Vendor Tour (online this year)

Membership Dues for 2021

Individual	\$50
Dual	\$75
Student	\$30



SIGN UP

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<https://jooltool.com>

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<https://www.ncblack.com>

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<https://www.riogrande.com>

Brad Smith
<http://www.bradsmithjewelry.com>